

OUR THOROUGHFARES.

The thoroughfares in a great commercial city like London should be paved by night as well as day: a supply of gas renders the one equal to the other. The serious interruption that so frequently happens could often be avoided, and should be. I also would complain of the loading of the pavement with mud and rubbish, so that the moment any rain falls the whole neighbourhood in the vicinity of a new pavement becomes in a filthy state. This is an idle folly, useless in the extreme, and is only practised because it was the custom in the time of Oliver Cromwell.

After the liquid cement has been poured into the interstices of the stones, nothing is required but some finely-sifted gravel, which makes no dirt, and the pavement, before any traffic commences, should be swept clean.

EXPERIENCE.

*. The stoppage of Piccadilly, and consequent invasion of the mysterious precincts of Mayfair, which all vehicles going westward or eastward are compelled to make, has brought us a host of letters from people, who, like ourselves, feel the annoyance. How long it is to last, at the rate the works are now going on, we will not pretend to say, and there are evidently preparations for further proceedings, which will give Berkeley-square the advantage of the Piccadilly traffic. A quiet, grave friend of ours, who has taken a house in Curzon-street, and called it "The Shelf," because it is so high up that he thought he might lie there in peace and quietness, admire the works of art with which he has sprinkled the walls, and study without interruption the history of architecture in "The Letters to Sorillah" (of whom, *nota bene*, he wants us to give a portrait), vows that he has never been able to hear himself speak since he moved, through the "row" made by bus-compelling horses and dust-disturbing carts. He thinks there is no longer a refuge for a peace-loving Londoner nearer than some *Belleue* at Richmond, or some Clifden cottage in the Isle of Wight, and implores our assistance to make his "Shelf" habitable again, and his voice heard. These blockades of Piccadilly seem to have taken their place amongst the *Annals* of the season: with the fall of the leaf comes the rise of the stones, as regularly as can be. At all events, we must insist on having the nuisance put into the smallest possible volume,—hot-pressed.

EXTENSION OF THE 'FERRO-VITREOUS' ORDER OF CONSTRUCTION.

In noting the immense profits which railway companies reaped during the Great Exhibition, we took occasion to remark that they ought to take a hint from the circumstance, as they would have been great gainers even had they erected the building at their own cost. They do seem to have taken the hint; for not only is the new erection at Sydenham mainly a railway project, but it is now proposed by the chairman of the South Devon Railway Company to erect a "People's Crystal Palace," in connection with public gardens, for the combined towns of Plymouth, Devonport, and Stonehouse, with their 120,000 or 130,000 inhabitants. Mr. Woolcombe's scheme embraces gardens to the extent of from 25 to 30 acres, and a crystal palace covering an acre of ground. The land to be leased by the trustees of the manor of Stoke Damerel, free of cost, with a view to the improvement of the surrounding property. The cost of laying out and of the crystal palace is estimated at 25,000*l.*, of which the palace would cost about 12,000*l.* The site selected is contiguous to the Cornwall Railway, and just in front of the Penlee Villas. It commands views of the Sound, Mount Edgcumbe, the Channel, and a considerable extent of country.

A project has been started also, though not in this case, ostensibly at least, by railway shareholders, for the erection of a people's palace, in Bath. An elevation and sections of the building were exhibited before the horticultural society. The originator is Mr. John Peacock, of Bath, architect. The site proposed is the Sydney Gardens. The eastern side of the

open space has been chosen with the especial view of preserving the central avenue. The building, like the original, consists of a nave and transept. The nave is 144 feet long and 48 feet wide, and the transept 96 feet long, 48 feet wide, and 70 feet high. The outside is supported by ornamental iron buttresses, and several improvements are introduced in the construction. The cost of the building is estimated at 6,000*l.*; and it is proposed to form a company, and to raise the amount in 1,200 shares of 5*l.* each. If the returns from the building should not be remunerative, the *Bath Journal* remarks, it might easily be removed and sold for a palm house or other purpose. Messrs. Fox and Henderson have agreed to erect the building, and render it fit for use in twelve weeks from the day of its commencement; and there is much probability, it is said, of the design being accomplished. Mr. Peacock contemplates several works in connection with the building, such as the erection of fountains in front of Sydney Hotel; the formation of a museum, to which the Gothic Hall would be appropriated; and generally the renovation of the gardens.

The new building would be used by valetudinarians and others in winter as a promenade and winter garden, and in summer horticultural and other exhibitions could be held in it.

BYLAUGH HALL, NORFOLK.

A SPIRITED paragraph in the *Athenæum* has made known the near completion of Bylaugh Hall amongst hedge-rows and turnip-fields, and prepared the way for the more complete information we were about to give our readers. Here they have a view of the building, and a plan of the ground-floor. It was erected under the provisions of a will of Sir John Lombe, bart, who died in 1817, and left a sum of money for the purpose of building a mansion on part of his Bylaugh estates, directing that so long as the house remained uncommenced the money should be invested, and allowed to accumulate at compound interest. By the terms of the will, also, the holder of the estate was to take the surname and arms of Lombe. Edward Lombe, esq. during whose possession and at whose instance the present house has been built, recently died abroad, and the present possessor of this fine estate, said to be worth 15,000*l.* a year, is Charles Lombe, esq. The new mansion was begun in the year 1849, under the supervision and control of the trustees, in whom the building fund was vested.

The mansion stands about twelve miles north-west of Norwich, and six miles north-east of East Dereham, in what was recently an arable field, but which is about to form, with the surrounding property, a fine park of about 600 acres in extent, through which the river Wensum winds, at a short distance from the house, which is placed advantageously on rising ground, open to the south, and commanding extensive and pleasing views in that direction. The style adopted is what is now generally understood by the term Anglo-Italian; a style which identifies itself, by its masses and outlines, with what is properly called English architecture, yet allows of the elegancies and finish of the art of the south.

The house is of simple size, though of less magnitude than has been indicated in the notice referred to, and the engraved plan will best show its arrangements for comfort and convenience. The Chancery joke, too, of our able contemporary, unluckily falls to the ground, since, by the wish of those who are interested, the inscription referred to, "*Ex jussu Curie Cancellarie*," has been cut out and replaced by a frieze ornament. The building has been erected from the design and under the superintendence of Messrs. Banks and Barry, of London, by the Messrs. Piper, of Bishopsgate-street, who have performed their work in a very creditable manner, to the satisfaction of the architects. Their contract, which has just been completed, amounted to 29,389*l.* a sum below the original estimate, and the work has been brought to a conclusion without any extra expenditure. The material is Magnesian Limestone, from the quarries of Mr. Grissell, from which the Houses of Parliament have been constructed,

and, seen without the disadvantage of London smoke and dirt, is of a warm and pleasing colour.

Passing the vestibule, one enters the saloon, which communicates with all the rooms, as seen in the plan, and by which arrangement passages are avoided; and it is lighted from above by means of a rich elliptical vault, with panels, filled with cut glass, and it, together with the reception-rooms, has been decorated with arabesques and flowers by Mr. Sang and his band of German artists, under the direction of the architects: two elliptical panels, one over and the other opposite the entrance to the saloon, have well-executed bas-reliefs, representing Peace and War, designed and modelled by Mr. Raynard Smith, of London.

The offices and stables, which are attached to the house, are built with the well-known bricks from Lord Leicester's estate at Holkham, and harmonise well in colour with their stone dressings, which are of the same stone as the house.

Messrs. Piper have just entered into a second contract for the formation of the terraces, conservatories, and enclosure walls and balustrades (which, it is understood, are very complete), befitting a mansion of such importance; and these works, as well as the enclosing of the space appropriated to the park by means of a brick wall, with lodges in the Norwich, Dereham, and Pakenham Woods, will be at once commenced: indeed, until that portion of these works immediately around the mansion is completed, the edifice appears to considerable disadvantage, all around being at present in its rough agricultural state.

The park and pleasure grounds will be arranged and laid out from the designs of Mr. W. A. Nesfield, the well-known landscape artist, whose advice, it seems, was also followed in the outset as to the precise position where the mansion could best be placed, and whose choice in this respect has met the approval of all the parties concerned. The formation of the park and the erection of the above accessorial buildings will take about two years, and, when all shall be complete, and the trees shall have attained their growth, the property will form not the least beautiful and perfect among the many seats of our English nobility and gentry.

It may be well to mention of the architects, that Mr. Banks was for many years the chief assistant in the office of Sir Charles Barry, of whom his partner, Mr. Barry, is the eldest son, and, we may add, as the question has been asked us, the only architect of the name now in practice who is related to him.

OXFORD INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

In justice to the guardians I cannot allow the observations of your correspondent "Justice," which drew from you a censure upon them, to pass unnoticed. It is true that in the month of February last the guardians advertised for plans, and on that occasion three were sent in. Mr. Bruton's was unanimously selected as being the only one possessing any merit; but it was at the same time unanimously resolved that if the builder's tender exceeded the sum of 2,250*l.* by more than 10 per cent. the plan would not be carried out, that being the amount sanctioned by the Poor-law Board. This proved to be case. The guardians thereupon felt that they had no other course to pursue but to advertise anew: they did so, and the same three architects only sent in designs. They were referred to a committee of the guardians. Mr. Bruton's altered plan was again unanimously recommended by the committee. A meeting of the guardians was called expressly for the purpose of considering the committee's report. At that meeting Col. Pigot was present, and said he was pleased that the committee had recommended that plan, as he thought the Poor-law Board could, if they chose, insist upon Mr. Bruton's original plan being carried out, they having approved of it, but he did not say so positively, nor did he say that it was not in the power of the guardians to revoke the decision; and after he left, the report of the committee was taken into consideration by the board of guardians, and unanimously adopted. The altered plan has since received the sanction of the Poor-law Board, without any observation as to the alteration.

H. JACOB.
Clerk to the Guardians.